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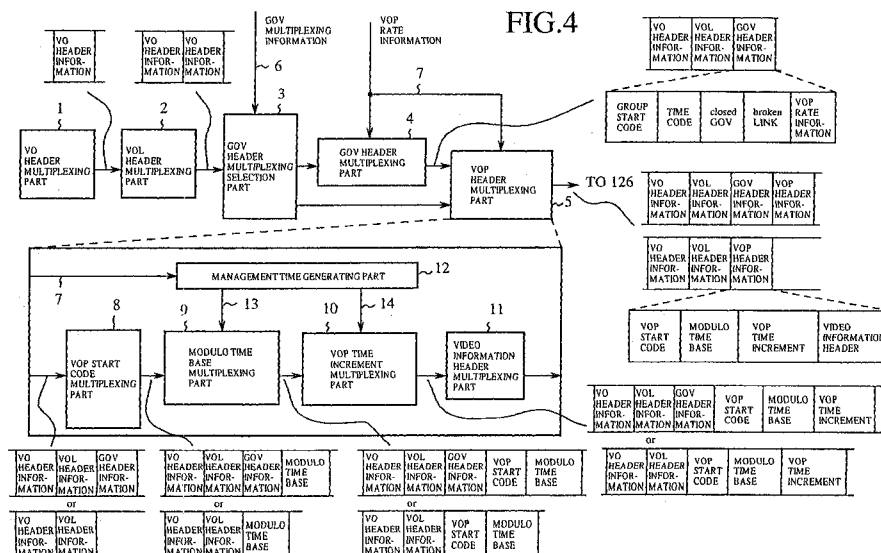
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(54) **decoding device and method for images encoded with VOP fixed rate flags**

(57) Multiplexing means of an image encoding device multiplexes VOP rate flags to indicate whether a VOP rate is fixed.





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                                                                                                                               | Relevant to claim                                 | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
| X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | "video bitstream syntax and semantics"<br>ISO STANDARD 13818.2,<br>1 July 1995 (1995-07-01), pages 23-62,<br>XP002243439<br>* page 28, paragraph 1 *<br>* page 41 - page 42 *                               | 1,2                                               | H04N7/52<br>H04N7/26                    |
| X,P                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | S. SEKIGUCHI, K. ASAI: "The insertion of<br>VOP rate information"<br>ISO/IEC JCTC1/SC29/WG11 MPEG 97/2747,<br>20 October 1997 (1997-10-20), pages 1-3,<br>XP002374596<br>Fribourg<br>* the whole document * | 1,2                                               |                                         |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | "MPEG-4 Requirements, draft version 5"<br>ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29/WG11 MPEG97/2688,<br>19 October 1997 (1997-10-19), pages 1-26,<br>XP002374597<br>Fribourg<br>* page 16, paragraph 4.2.11.D *                    | 1,2                                               |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (IPC)      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   | H04N                                    |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   |                                         |
| Place of search<br>Berlin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Date of completion of the search<br>29 March 2006 | Examiner<br>Raeymaekers, P              |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS<br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   |                                         |

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